

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Claim 4 has been amended. New claim 5 has been added.

Claims 4 and 5 are therefore presently pending in the case.

II. Support for the Amendment to the Specification and the Amended and Newly Added Claims

The specification has been amended to include reference to the co-pending U.S. Application.

Claim 4 has been amended to specifically recite an isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least in Section 5.2.

Claim 5 has been added to specifically recite an antibody that specifically recognizes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least in Section 5.3.

It will be understood that no new matter is included within the amended specification or the amended or newly added claims.

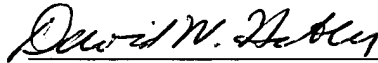
III. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present case is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or believe that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

March 17, 2004

Date



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